

FEW PEOPLE outside the ranks of the Berks and Bucks F.A. council would, we imagine, have anticipated that Wycombe Wanderers would have been punished twice for the same misdemeanour.

What an outcry there would be if an offender brought to court was, say, placed on probation and then whipped off to another court to be fined for the same offence.

The Wycombe side have brought honour to the town and to the two counties. They have been congratulated for their sportsmanship both on and off the field. But, under some provocation, they slipped from grace after the Berks and Bucks cup final, refusing to accept cup and player awards.

The B. and B. association reported them to the Football Association, who censured them and warned them as to their future conduct. Now the club has been shocked by the imposition of penalties by the two counties executive committee, including the loss of gate money.

Thatcham, the other finalists, are to receive the trophy but they can take little pride in the fact, having been soundly beaten on the field. The players, who were obeying the dictate of their manager, lose their plaques.

In our view the Berks and Bucks F.A. have written their own unsavoury chapter into the two counties' football history. By their persistent refusal over some seasons to accede to the Wycombe club's request for permission to enter an additional senior competition and by their failure to give a reasonable explanation for the refusal they made their own contribution to bringing about the ultimate fall.

What now? The Wanderers should appeal on the second conviction, and B. and B. should show some understanding, if not magnanimity, on the provoking issue. That, and a few handshakes all round, could amicably seal a breach in good relations that ought never have been allowed to happen.

WANDERERS ARE RAPPED BY F.A.

WYCOMBE Wanderers and their manager Brian Lee have been severely reprimanded by the Football Association following the side's refusal to accept the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup after their 4-0 victory over Thatcham Town in the final.

After the match at Chesham Meadow on March 31, every member of the Wycombe team went straight to the dressing room, instead of receiving the cup and losers' medals. Thatcham players collected their medals, but Berks and Bucks officials, somewhat red-faced, were left holding the trophy and winners' medals.

This was Wycombe's

protest against the action of the County F.A. in refusing their request to enter the London Senior Cup for the third successive year.

The County reported Wycombe's action to the Football Association, who notified the club last week of their decision.

In a statement, the F.A. said: "The refusal by the Wycombe Wanderers F.C. to accept the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup after winning the match against Thatcham Town on March 31, 1975, has been reported to the F.A. by the Berks and Bucks F.A."

"The Emergency Committee of the F.A., acting on behalf of the Council, has considered the explanation given by the chairman and manager of the club and has

decided that Wycombe Wanderers F.C. be severely censured and warned-as to its future conduct and that Mr. B. Lee be very severely censured."

Some observers considered that Wycombe Wanderers might be fined, and satisfaction at the decision was expressed by Mr. Jack Smethurst, the club chairman.

"I think under the circumstances we are most fortunate," he said. "They have been very tolerant and have dealt with the matter in a very enlightened manner."

There is still one matter concerning this affair that is still unresolved — that of the trophy and the winners' medals. Discussions are to take place in the near future between the club and the county to end this dilemma.



BRIAN LEE
... "very severely censured"

Now B. and B. punish Wanderers

HAVING been "severely censured and warned as to their future conduct" by the Football Association last week, Wycombe Wanderers have been further punished by the Berks and Bucks F.A. executive committee.

Wanderers were censored by the F.A. for refusing to

accept the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup after beating Thatcham 4-0 at Chesham on Easter Monday. The Berks and Bucks Association decided to pass the matter to the F.A. for them to deal with.

When they received the warning from the F.A., Wycombe thought the matter was over. But this week they

received a letter from the County Association, which has imposed several severe penalties.

The punishments are as follows.

(A) Wycombe Wanderers have been expelled from the 1974-75 Senior Cup competition (last season).

(B) Thatcham to receive

the trophy on Thursday, at their annual general meeting.

(C) The players plaques to be retained by the Berks and Bucks F.A.

(D) Wycombe Wanderers gate receipts from the game to be retained by the Berks and Bucks F.A.

(E) Wycombe Wanderers to enter the Berks and Bucks

Senior Cup at the first round stage next season.

The two most severe of the punishments are D and E. Wanderers stand to lose £200-£250 in gate money which the B. and B. have retained. Having to enter the first round of the competition next season instead of round three, will also be a nuisance to the club.

Wycombe are both surprised and shocked by the county's decision. They feel the matter has been dealt with twice — by both the County and the F.A.

Blues chairman Jack Smethurst said this week that the club would be writing to the Berks and Bucks F.A. asking for an explanation.